

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed in order to facilitate processing of the above identified application.

As indicated above, claims 1, 6, 11, 18, and 25-28 have been amended in order to make explicit what is implicit in the claims. The amendment is unrelated to a statutory requirement for patentability.

Miller, et al. discloses in FIG. 1 an input luminance block data and an input chrominance signal into a block shuffler 10. Applicants respectfully point out that the luminance signal and chrominance signal are not signals having different frame rates. In fact, if the luminance and chrominance signals had different frame rates, the image in *Miller, et al.* would not be viewable.

Katata, et al. discloses a single input image encoded at different frame rates depending upon a region in an image such as a facial portion. Thus, while different regions of the image may have different coding rates, the luminance and chrominance signals in the areas would have the same frame rates in order to view the image.

Elmaliach, et al. merely discloses compressing a single original video signal a plurality of ways based on bit rate. Nothing in *Elmaliach, et al.* shows, teaches or suggests first and second digital image signals having different frame rates.

Finally, nothing in the references taken singularly or in combination show, teach or suggest (a) compression-encoding each of the first and second digital image signals based upon their frame rate and (b) shuffling the macro blocks such that the output order of the macro block unit of the first digital image signal after compression-encoding at a first frame rate is equivalent to the output order of the macro block units of the second digital image signals after compression-encoding at a second frame rate as claimed in claims 1, 6, 11, 18 and 25-28.

Furthermore, nothing in the references shows, teaches or suggests recording the macro block units as claimed in claims 11, 18, 27 and 28. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraws the rejection to claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

New claims 29-31 have been added and recite additional features. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Thus, it now appears that the application is in condition for reconsideration and allowance. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If for any reason the Examiner feels that the application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed within the currently set shortened statutory period, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such extension of time may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.


In the event that any additional fees are due with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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